

Message Text

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TO ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS PRIORITY
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SUBJECT: RICHARD'S AFRICAN CONSULTATIONS

1. THE FOLLOWING GUIDANCE WAS PROVIDED DECEMBER 28 TO THE PRESS OFFICE REGARDING U.S. SUPPORT FOR THE RICHARD CONSULTATIONS AND EDMONDSON'S ROLE.

2. MR. IVOR RICHARD, BRITAIN'S PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE AT THE U.N., WHO IS CHAIRMAN OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE ON RHODESIA, IS TRAVELING TO AFRICA BEGINNING THIS WEEK, TO CONSULT WITH THE VARIOUS PARTIES MOST DIRECTLY CONCERNED WITH THE SEARCH FOR A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT IN RHODESIA. THE U.S. SUPPORTS MR. RICHARD'S MISSION, WHICH IS ESSENTIALLY A CONTINUATION, DURING THE HOLIDAY RECESS, OF THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS BEGUN IN GENEVA. AS HE HAS INDICATED PUBLICLY, MR. RICHARD WILL BE EXPLORING VARIOUS IDEAS THAT HAVE ARISEN FROM THE GENEVA TALKS, INCLUDING PARTICULARLY UNCLASSIFIED

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THE NATURE AND EXTENT OF A POSSIBLE BRITISH ROLE IN THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT. AS ANY FINAL SETTLEMENT MUST, OF COURSE, ARISE FROM AGREEMENT AMONG THOSE DIRECTLY INVOLVED, MR. RICHARD WILL BE EXPLORING ALL RELEVANT VIEWS IN SEEKING THE BASIS FOR SUCH AN AGREEMENT IN ORDER THAT THE CONFERENCE MAY COMPLETE ITS WORK QUICKLY WHEN IT RESUMES ON JANUARY 17.

3. IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN CLOSE LIAISON WITH MR. RICHARD,
AS WE DID IN GENEVA, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY WILLIAM B.
EDMONDSON WILL BE TRAVELING TO AFRICA TO SERVE AS A POINT
OF CONTACT. HIS EXACT ITINERARY WILL ROUGHLY PARALLEL
THAT OF MR. RICHARD.
ROBINSON

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